THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The rupee trade arrangement has been found to be beneficial. Given the bilateral clearing arrangement in place between India and USSR, the level of Indian exports to USSR is determined by the amount of Soviet exports to India and repayments due on USSR credits. Prospects for trade are reviewed periodically in bilateral meetings.

(d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Group of Commodities	1990 (Provisional) Jan. -May	1991 (Provisional)
		(Rs./ Crores)	
1.	Agricultural Products	2084	430
2.	Minerals and Ores	67	2
3.	Chemicals & Allied Products	1039	459
4.	Leather & Leather Goods	301	156
5.	Textiles	752	307
6.	Engineering Goods	1049	352
7.	Others	113	28
	Total	5405	1729

(Source: DGCTDS, Calcutta)

[Translation]

Widening of National Highway No. 29

5158. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any provision to widen the National Highway No. 29 passing through Varanasi to Gorakhpur via Gazipur;

(b) if so, when the work to widen the said highway was started;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of the work; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. National Highway No. 29 has been already

widened from single lane to two lane pavement.

(b) to (d). The work of widening on a national Highway is taken up in sections depending upon the priority as per traffic intensity and the overall availability of resources. The first work of widening to two lanes on National Highway 29 was taken up in section near Varanasi in 1972. The last work was the sanctioned in 1987 and all the widening works have since been completed.

[*English*]

Production of Textiles in Andhra Pradesh

5159. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the productivity of textile industry in Andhra Pradesh is very low as compared to other southern States; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Andhra Pradesh stands third in respect of productivity of yarn and fourth in respect of cloth amongst the four Southern States.

(b) The comparatively low productivity of Andhra Pradesh, vis-a-vis some Southern States is due to several factors such as odd type of machineries, low labour productivity, closure of mills, under-utilisation of capacity and other infrastructural difficulties. For improving the production of textiles, several measures have been taken which include assistance under Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme, revival of sick mills by the nodal agencies etc., So far Rs. 34.38 crores (including Rs. 0.51 crores special loan) has been disbursed in 28 cases in Andhra Pradesh under the modernisation Fund Scheme upto 31-3-91. Also nodal agency has so far examined 11 mills in Andhra Pradesh, out of which 3 have been found viable, 3 nonviable, and the remaining cases are yet to be decided. Also, 9 mills have been registered with BIFR.

Export of Iron-Ore From Goa

5160. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of iron ore exported from Goa during 1990-91, grade-wise and the value thereof in rupees;

(b) the incentives being given at present to the exporters of iron-ore;

(c) whether the Government propose to give more incentives to exporters with a view to further encourage the exports of iron ore from Goa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) Exports of iron ore are eligible for Exim Scrips@ 30% of the fob value of exports and tax concession under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act in the case of exports of processed iron ore conforming to the conditions prescribed by the Government in this behalf.

(c) and (d). The existing export incentive are considered adequate.